

Message Text

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CTME-00 ITC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 FRB-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT:ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ASSESSED ON JAPANESE COLOR TV
SETS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TREASURY PRESS RELEASE DATED
MARCH 31 ANNOUNCING THE ASSESSMENT OF ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON
JAPANESE COLOR TELEVISION SETS.

BEGIN TEXT. THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT
THE CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS ASSESSED ANTIDUMPING DUTIES,
TOTALLING ABOUT 46 MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH ARE DUE ON
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JAPANESE COLOR TELEVISION SETS IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED
STATES IN 1972 AND 1973.

THE ASSESSED DUTIES ARE SUBJECT TO "PROTESTS"--A LEGAL
PROCESS--BY IMPORTERS, AND SUBSEQUENT COURT REVIEW. MORE
THAN 100 U.S. IMPORTERS ARE INVOLVED.

TODAY'S ACTION FOLLOWS A 1971 TREASURY DEPARTMENT FINDING THAT JAPANESE COLOR TELEVISIONS ARE BEING "DUMPED" AT PRICES BELOW FAIR MARKET VALUE IN THE UNITED STATES. THE CURRENT ACTION CONSTITUTES THE FIRST STEP IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE'S EFFORT TO ELIMINATE THE FIVE-YEAR BACKLOG OF TELEVISION IMPORT DUTIES, COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 1972 TO

1977.

"THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SUCH A LARGE PROCEEDING ON UNITED STATES TELEVISION IMPORTERS," STATED ROBERT H. MUNDHEIM, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE U.S. TREASURY. "THE CUSTOMS SERVICE CONSEQUENTLY INTENDS TO ATTEMPT TO WORK WITH AFFECTED PARTIES TO DESIGN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMPTLY HEARING AND RESOLVING ANY CLAIMS, INCLUDING THAT THE AMOUNT INVOLVED IS INCORRECT, AND AVOIDING UNNECESSARY DISRUPTION OF THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF THE IMPORTERS."

IN ACTING TO CLEAR UP THE BACKLOG, CUSTOMS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MODIFY ITS ROUTINE APPROACH TO THE COMPUTATION OF ANTIDUMPING DUTIES. CUSTOMS NORMALLY RECEIVES INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRICES AT WHICH GOODS ARE IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE IMPORTER, AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE "ADJUSTED" WHOLESALE PRICES OF COMPARABLE MERCHANDISE IN JAPAN FROM THE MANUFACTURER. ANTIDUMPING UNCLASSIFIED

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DUTIES ARE THEN ASSESSED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE JAPANESE PRICE EXCEEDS THE U.S. PRICE.

IN THIS PROCEEDING, MUCH OF THE NEEDED INFORMATION WAS INSUFFICIENT. CONSEQUENTLY, AS IS PERMITTED BY US STATUTE, CUSTOMS CHOSE TO USE ALTERNATE DATA AS THE "BEST EVIDENCE" AVAILABLE. USING EXPERTS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION AND CUSTOMS, THE MOST COMPARABLE JAPANESE DOMESTIC TELEVISION SETS WERE DETERMINED. CUSTOMS THEN COMPUTED THE APPROPRIATE ADJUSTED WHOLESALE PRICES (KNOWN AS FOREIGN MARKET VALUES) FROM THE RETAIL PRICES OF THOSE SELECTED TELEVISION MODELS. THESE VALUES WERE CALCULATED BY USING A NUMERICAL RATIO EMPLOYED IN THE JAPANESE COMMODITY TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELATING WHOLESALE PRICES TO RETAIL PRICES.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS ASSESSED ANTIDUMPING DUTIES USING THE JAPANESE COMMODITY TAX TO COMPUTE WHOLESALE PRICES.

IN COMMENTING ON THIS, MR. MUNDHEIM SAID: "THE TREASURY

RECOGNIZES THAT IMPORTERS MAY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO
FILE ADMINISTRATIVE PROTESTS CHALLENGING THIS APPROACH,
AND SOME MAY LATER APPEAL TO THE CUSTOMS COURT."
END TEXT. COOPER

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